

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid till end of October 2021

Till the end of the month the birdstrike risk at German airports remains elevated due to the increased bird migration. However, radar data exhibit the highest intensity at the border to the Netherlands right now. Large abundancies of common wood pigeons (see below) and starlings are reported, whereat starlings often gather in large flocks at roosting places (weed, wood). Likewise, a massive passage of redwings from northeast to southwest takes place and the first winter visitors like rough-legged buzzards and Nordic geese are arriving. Sightings of migrating and resting great cormorants are increasing as well as numbers of common cranes, which can be observed from south-western to north-eastern Germany. Furthermore, Nordic ducks are reported in larger numbers and while populations of common scoter and common eider are restricted to the coasts, eurasian wigeons can be found also at large rivers like the Elbe.

Overall, the birdstrike risk is increased in northern and eastern Germany, especially near the coasts and large waters, but elevated migration activity has also to be expected at inland wetlands and water bodies. Most bird species pass Germany in a broad band and use mostly heights up to 12,000 ft, but sometimes even much higher. Bird migration takes place at day and night, often increasing around dusk and dawn.

High migration activity of certain species must be expected also during the next weeks, whereat constant weather conditions with north-eastern wind can enhance migration. On the other hand, strong winds from southwest and rain might lead to a stop of migrating birds. Good weather conditions might be a reason for the large groups of reported fildfares (see below) and black redstarts, which might use manoeuvring areas at airports for resting and feeding. Beneath the occurrence of large flocks from the above mentioned species, crows, raptors and gulls have to be expected at airports at any time. They use lawns for resting and feeding and often appear year-round. Furthermore, harvested fields in the vicinity might attract large flocks of geese and cranes that pose a high risk on their commuting flights.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chat provided under the following link <https://www.notams.faa.gov/common/birdtam.html>



Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), left; Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), middle; Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*, young birds without white patch at the neck), right